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The Commission of Fine Arts
2 December 1954

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

HELD IN WASHINGTON D. C., 2 DECEMBER 1954

A meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in its offices in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, 2 December 1954. The following members were present:

David E. Finley, Chairman
Joseph Hudnut
Felix W. de Weldon
Elbert Peets
George Biddle
Pietro Belluschi

also L. R. Wilson, Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:30 a. m.

Proceedings:

1. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF 16 AND 17 SEPTEMBER, AND 10 NOVEMBER 1954:

Since the minutes of the meetings of 16 and 17 September, and 10 November 1954 had not been ready for distribution prior to today's meeting, the members could not take action on them.

2. NOMINATIONS FOR MR. BIDDLE'S SUCCESSOR: Mr. Biddle presented to the Chairman a list of names of artists as possible successors to his post. The Chairman said: "I think it is very important to get a painter who will speak out as you do, and who is well thought of by the rest of the profession."

Mr. Biddle replied that he believed there was great need to give the various art organizations, who seek an official means of expression, proper representation in Washington in order "to establish warmer and friendlier relations between the art bodies and the artists and our Commission." He hoped that a precedent could be set in this respect and recommended forwarding the names of the recent heads of Artists Equity to the President

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Mr. Biddle replied that he believed there was great need to give the various art organizations, who seek an official means of expression, proper representation in Washington in order "to establish warmer and friendlier relations between the art bodies and the artists and our Commission." He hoped that a precedent could be set in this respect and recommended forwarding the names of the recent heads of Artists Unity to the President

for consideration, adding that "four-fifths of all the professional American artists belong to it."

A discussion ensued over the advisability of setting such a precedent. Dr. Hudnut mentioned the possible risk involved due to "a lot of tension between some of the art organizations and this Commission and the Administration who are supporting us." Mr. Belluschi added that any such body as Artists Equity might feel slighted if a recommendation of one of their leaders was disapproved. Chairman Finley agreed with Dr. Hudnut and Mr. Belluschi and thought that it would, perhaps, be wiser for Mr. Biddle to send a personal letter himself to the White House with the names of his choice and with his reason for giving them.

After further discussion, it was decided that the Commission would send the list of names to the White House in a letter stating that the list was sent at the request of the painter member of the Commission of Fine Arts (Exhibit A).

3. NOMINATIONS FOR MR. NEILD'S SUCCESSOR: The Chairman then noted that no successor had as yet been appointed to succeed Mr. Neild. He considered it an opportune time for the Commission to nominate some candidates. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should write a letter to the President forwarding the names of architects as possible successors to Mr. Edward F. Neild, Sr. (Exhibit A).

4. CONSTITUTION AVENUE BRIDGE - CENTRAL AREA TUNNEL SURVEY: Chairman Finley reported that the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association had refused to take any action towards softening its attitude in regard to a bridge crossing Roosevelt Island, and that a tunnel appeared to be the only means of saving the Lincoln Memorial.

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Five Arts (Exhibit A).

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that no successor had as yet been appointed to succeed Mr. Wells. He considered it an opportunity time for the Commission to nominate some candidate. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should write a letter to the President forwarding the names of architects as possible successors to Mr. Edward F. Wells, Sr. (Exhibit A).

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man Finley reported that the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association had refused to take any action towards softening its attitude in regard to a bridge crossing Roosevelt Island, and that a tunnel appeared to be the only means of saving the Lincoln Memorial.

Then, at the Chairman's request, the Secretary reported that on 19 November 1954, Mr. Oscar Beasley, a Washington engineer of prominence and a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, telephoned the Secretary and asked for an appointment to discuss the central area bridge problem. He stated his Society was of the opinion that a tunnel in the Constitution Avenue area was feasible and that he believed expert advice should be asked. He said the most experienced tunnel engineer in the country was considered to be Mr. Ole Singstad, of New York.

After talking with Mr. Beasley and consulting with Chairman Finley, the Secretary took Mr. Beasley to see Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Associate Superintendent of National Capital Parks. Mr. Thompson received Mr. Beasley cordially and stated the National Park Service was most interested in having an expert survey made and had already contacted Mr. Singstad in New York. Data for his use were being assembled and plans were being completed to take the material to New York.

General discussion of the bridge situation followed. Mr. Belluschi said he believed that the Commission had weakened its position in stating that the Commission recommended a tunnel under the Potomac River in lieu of a bridge, explaining "we advocate something that we do not know a thing about." He urged a study be made of tunnel possibilities, but Chairman Finley interposed that he thought it was too late for the Commission to talk about studies.

The Chairman then reported that a reply had been received to his letter to the Secretary of the Interior (See Exhibit A-1 in the minutes of 10 November 1954) regarding the bridge/tunnel situation (Exhibit B). He also read the reply (Exhibit B-1) to a letter which he sent to the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission (Exhibit B-2).

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The Chairman then clarified the Commission's stand by explaining that the Commission was recommending a tunnel in the event there should be no site available for the bridge other than the Constitution Avenue approach. He argued strongly in favor of a tunnel similar to those in other cities, expressing the hope that the Park Service would share this opinion after an estimate of costs. He believed that the aesthetic values rather than the expense should be the governing factors in the final determination.

"If the engineers want to destroy the beauty of this area on the ground that the Government cannot afford to spend the money required for a tunnel, they can destroy anything in Washington," said Chairman Finley. "I think we have to take a strong position about it and say: 'You cannot destroy this setting of the Lincoln Memorial and the other monuments in that area.'"

Mr. Belluschi did agree that the decision one way or another would "last for the next 200 years and certainly they should not ruin a landscape that is very precious."

Mr. Peets declared he believed the Commission should keep in mind an alternative solution of a low bridge or bridges across Roosevelt Memorial Island should the tunnel idea fail. In his opinion the trustees of the Roosevelt Island might be persuaded to accept such a solution as a means to preserve the beauty of the area involved. He foresaw the difficulty which would arise in getting traffic into the tunnel from the roadways and boulevards that run parallel to the river.

Mr. Belluschi concurred with Mr. Peets with an expression of fear that a tunnel would cause a traffic problem.

In favor of the tunnel, Mr. de Weldon cited the several Manhattan tunnels which operate satisfactorily and added, "I think the approaches to the

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tunnel would eliminate the old gas works and the brewery and the slum area. It could be an improvement."

District officials had stated recently that they wanted to expedite plans for the bridge and were proceeding to initiate the required steps to do so. The members of the Commission agreed that future action should be based on what might arise from the National Park Service's conference with the tunnel expert.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Oscar H. Beasley, of the firm of Beasley and Beasley, Valuation and Industrial Engineering Specialists, sent to the Commission of Fine Arts a copy of a letter which he wrote to Mr. Ole Singstad of New York, a professional engineer, in which he reported the situation of the proposed bridge at Constitution Avenue, saying that he thought this was an opportunity for the Society of Professional Engineers to render a service to the Federal Government by providing the best information on tunnels that they knew to be available (Exhibit B-3).

5. NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM: The Chairman summarized Congressman Howell's proposed legislation providing for a war memorial athletic stadium with a music center and auditorium, which had been considered and reported on by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on 10 November 1954. He read a letter which he had received from Congressman Howell (Exhibit C) requesting the Commission's consideration of a revised draft of his legislation which proposed to set up a Federal commission to consider a suitable site for a War Memorial Auditorium and to formulate plans and designs of said building. The legislation also called for a War Memorial Advisory Board which would consult with the proposed commission in carrying out its functions under the act.

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Chairman Finley described the music center proposed by the legislation as an "excellent thing," quoting the bill as authorizing the proposed Federal commission "to avail itself of the assistance of the Commission of Fine Arts, etc."

A motion by Dr. Hudnut was made that the revised draft of legislation be approved. Mr. Peets seconded the motion which was put to a vote and carried. Congressman Howell was informed accordingly (Exhibit C-1).

6. SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: Chairman Finley read a letter (Exhibit D) from Dr. Leonard Carmichael, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, stating that the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, had prepared preliminary sketch plans of proposed extensions to the east and west wings of the Natural History Museum Building at Tenth and Constitution Avenue; and that the Smithsonian was respectfully requesting consideration of the sketches by the Commission of Fine Arts.

Mr. Leonard L. Hunter, Supervising Architect, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration; Dr. John L. Keddy, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; and Mr. Frank A. Taylor, Head, Department of Engineering and Industries, Smithsonian Institution, entered the meeting and were introduced by Chairman Finley.

Dr. Keddy first gave the Commission a brief background of the proposed expansion to provide badly-needed space and outlined the proposals, with emphasis on the addition of wings to the building as an alternative to filling in the court areas. He stated that all plans were contingent upon financing, which in turn depended upon the Bureau of the Budget's reaching a favorable decision.

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Mr. Hunter provided the Commission with technical data and showed sketches relative to materials, dimensions, air conditioning, lighting of wings, etc. According to plans each wing would be 165 feet in one dimension and 180 feet in the other, following the lines of the present building. In answer to a question by Chairman Finley, Mr. Hunter stated that the wings would require only partial air-conditioning while it would be necessary to air-condition the entire Museum if the court areas were filled in. He concluded that the latter plan would be the most expensive, and both he and the Chairman were in agreement that building wing extensions was the most practical solution for the time being to provide storage and research space for the Museum.

A motion to approve the preliminary sketches of the new wings of the Natural History Museum was put to a vote and was unanimously carried. (Exhibit D-1).

7. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSION - WASHINGTON COLD STORAGE COMPANY, INCORPORATED: The Secretary presented the revised plans for the proposed plant and office building for the Washington Cold Storage Company, Incorporated, to be erected at 1011-1015 E Street, Southwest. The preliminary plans had been presented to the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on 10 November 1954 and had been returned to the architect with several suggestions. The Secretary said that the architect, Mr. John S. Samperton had tried to incorporate the Commission's previous suggestions in this revised set of drawings. The drawings and photographs of the site for the plant near Farmer's Market were carefully restudied. The facade on Tenth Street had been greatly simplified but was still considered to be over-elaborate. After some discussion Mr. Belluschi made a motion that the design be approved with the understanding that the decorative treatment of the elevator

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shaft at the corner be eliminated and that the same material, either brick or limestone, be carried to the corner of the building. Mr. de Weldon seconded the motion and the motion carried by a show of hands. The Secretary said he would advise Mr. Samperton of the Commission's suggestions. (See Shipstead-Luce Case No. 1715.)

8. SARA LOUISA RITTENHOUSE PROPOSED MEMORIAL IN MONTROSE PARK,

GEORGETOWN: The Secretary presented preliminary plans for a memorial gateway at the entrance to Montrose Park by Miss Gertrude Sawyer. The design consisted of two brick gate posts, about seven feet tall, bearing a limestone plaque and finials. A short discussion of its merits followed. The presentation drawing was considered inadequate for proper appraisal. No formal action was taken, but the members agreed it should be restudied as to scale and material and asked the Secretary to confer with Miss Sawyer about the matter.

9. FINE ARTS LEGISLATION:

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: Chairman Finley reviewed the revised draft of bill by Congressman Howell, "to increase the membership and expand the functions and duties of the Commission of Fine Arts, and for other purposes," which had been considered previously at the Commission's meeting on 10 November 1954. The Chairman also read a draft of a letter (Exhibit E) which he had addressed to Congressman Howell pointing out that the draft of the legislator's new bill for a Fine Arts Commission was fundamentally at variance with the Commission's views in that it would completely change the advisory character of the Commission by converting it to a highly-centralized, bureaucratic agency for the administration of government art projects, and for channeling Government money for such undertakings. Mr. Biddle went

shaft at the corner be eliminated and that the same material, either brick or limestone, be carried to the corner of the building. Mr. de Weldon seconded the motion and the motion carried by a show of hands. The Secretary said he would advise Mr. Carpenter of the Commission's suggestions. (See Shipstead-Luce Case No. 1117.)

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on record to say that the bill would permit any politician to review and attack "any federal art project on the basis that it did not have the proper educational effect on the country."

The Commission agreed that it was opposed in principle to any form of a federal ministry of fine arts concentrating power in a few hands, and the Chairman added that in the final draft of the letter, he would stress entire disapproval of the bill and its aim and possible effects.

10. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS: The Chairman announced that after the Commission of Fine Arts had passed on the National Academy's recommendations at the last meeting (See Exhibit E-2 of minutes of 10 November 1954), he had sent the respective recommendations to the General Services Administration, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the Post Office Department. The Secretary stated that favorable replies had been received from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the Post Office Department (See Item 4 in the minutes of 10 November 1954), but no reply, as yet, had been received from the General Services Administration.

11. FREER GALLERY OF ART: In accordance with the usual custom, the Commission visited the Freer Gallery of Art, where the Director, Mr. Wenley, submitted a number of works of art proposed for purchase. The Commission was pleased to inspect the objects and approved them for purchase (Exhibit F).

12. AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION: The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the American Pharmaceutical Association (Exhibit G) in which it was requested that the Commission of Fine Arts review the proposal by the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia to change from Residential 90' "C" Area to First Commercial 90' "C" Area, Lot 11, Square 62, located on the southwest corner of 22nd and C Streets, Northwest. The Commission of Fine Arts had encouraged the erection of the

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12. AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION: The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the American Pharmaceutical Association (Exhibit G) in which it was requested that the Commission of Fine Arts review the proposal by the Xoning Commission of the District of Columbia to change from Residential 90' "C" Area to First Commercial 90' "C" Area, lot 11, Square 62, located on the southwest corner of 22nd and C Streets, Northwest. The Commission of Fine Arts had encouraged the erection of the

headquarters building of the Association on the Constitution Avenue front of this site, and the Association was protesting the proposed change since it would allow future commercial development of the property on which the American Pharmaceutical Association hoped to expand its own facilities. The Commission had encouraged such expansion by approving plans for a laboratory which had been submitted to the Commission on 15 January 1935.

The Commission discussed the matter and decided to visit the site during the trip to the National Gallery for lunch. A report was sent, under date of 3 December 1954, to Dr. Robert P. Fischelis, Secretary, American Pharmaceutical Association, as follows:

"The Commission reaffirmed the position it took when the American Institute of Pharmacy Building was constructed regarding the suitability of the lot in question for use in your expansion program. The Commission hopes that your contentions that the property should not be reclassified for commercial use will be upheld by the Zoning Commission at the hearing on 8 December 1954."

13. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The date of the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was set for 10 February 1955.

The Commission adjourned at 2:00 p. m.

headquarters building of the Association on the Constitution Avenue front of this site, and the Association was protesting the proposed change since it would allow future commercial development of the property on which the American Pharmaceutical Association hoped to expand its own facilities. The Commission had encouraged such expansion by approving plans for a laboratory which had been submitted to the Commission on 15 January 1955. The Commission discussed the matter and decided to visit the site during the trip to the National Gallery for lunch. A report was sent, under date of 3 December 1954, to Dr. Robert P. Fischel, Secretary, American Pharmaceutical Association, as follows:

"The Commission reaffirmed the position it took when the American Institute of Pharmacy Building was considered regarding the suitability of the lot in question for use in your expansion program. The Commission hopes that your contention that the property should not be reclassified for commercial use will be upheld by the Zoning Commission at the hearing on 8 December 1954."

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The Commission adjourned at 2:00 p. m.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 3, 1954

Dear Mr. Willis:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, which was held yesterday, Mr. George Biddle, the painter member of the Commission, submitted the names of the following painters with the request that I forward them to the President for consideration in choosing Mr. Biddle's successor:

Henry T. Billings
Julio De Diego

Ernest Fiene
Leon Kroll

All are officers or former officers of the Artists' Equity Association. I enclose sketches which appear in "Who's Who" or "Who's Who in Art."

In addition to the above names, other members of the Commission asked that I submit the names of Mr. Andrew Wyeth and Mr. Franklyn Watkins for possible consideration as painter members of the Commission. I also enclose the sketches of these artists from the current edition of "Who's Who" or "Who's Who in Art."

Various members of the Commission also asked that I forward the following names of architects for consideration as the possible successor for Mr. Edward Neild, architect, who has resigned from the Commission:

Wallace K. Harrison
Morris Ketchum
Mies Van der Rohe
Marcel Breur

Eero Saarinen
Nat Owings
Walter Gropius
George Howe

I also enclose such information as is available on these architects.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Charles F. Willis
Assistant to the Assistant
to the President
The White House

EXHIBIT A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 1, 1944

TO THE PRESIDENT

As the result of the Committee's investigation, which was held on October 1, 1944, the Committee has determined that the following persons have been in contact with the President for consultation in the past six months:

James H. Doolittle
Lester B. Granger

All are officers or former officers of the United States Army. I enclose sketches which show the names of these persons in the past six months.

In addition to the above names, other persons of the Committee's knowledge are listed in the sketch of the Committee's investigation. I enclose a list of these persons in the sketch of the Committee's investigation. I also enclose the names of these persons in the sketch of the Committee's investigation.

Various persons in the Committee's investigation are listed in the sketch of the Committee's investigation. I enclose a list of these persons in the sketch of the Committee's investigation.

James H. Doolittle
Lester B. Granger
Lester B. Granger
Lester B. Granger
Lester B. Granger

I also enclose a list of the names of the persons who have been in contact with the President for consultation in the past six months.

Very truly yours,
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Mr. James H. Doolittle
Assistant to the President
at the President
The White House

C O P Y

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

November 22, 1954

My dear Mr. Finley:

Thank you for your letter of November 10, reporting the recommendation of the Fine Arts Commission that a tunnel be substituted for the proposed bridge over the Potomac River between the Memorial Bridge and Roosevelt Island if no other site is available.

I feel, as do members of the Commission, that we should make every effort to avoid marring the present beauty of the scene where the Potomac flows past the Lincoln Memorial and on under the graceful span memorializing the reunion of the North and the South.

You may be assured that the recommendation of the Fine Arts Commission will receive serious consideration as the Department of the Interior studies every aspect of the proposed bridge authorized by the Congress, with a view to protecting the matchless setting, which, as you so aptly point out, results from a unique collaboration of nature, art and history.

Sincerely yours

Sgd. Douglas McKay
Secretary of the Interior

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

1911

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

November 22, 1911

Mr. David S. Finley,

Chief of the Bureau of Land Management,
Washington, D. C.

I feel, it is necessary to state that the
Bureau of Land Management is not a
department of the Interior, but a
department of the United States
Government.

It may be stated that the Bureau of Land
Management is not a department of the
Interior, but a department of the
United States Government.

Sincerely yours,

David S. Finley,
Chief of the Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. David S. Finley,
Chief of the Bureau of Land Management,
Washington, D. C.

1911

C O P Y

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 12, 1954

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Your letter of November 10th has just come to hand. I will be pleased to submit to the National Capital Planning Commission the views of the Fine Arts Commission as expressed in the letter of November 10th addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, also your suggestion that a further joint meeting of our two respective commissions might be held in the near future.

Our Commission has not yet received the report of its traffic consultant on estimated 1970 volume of traffic crossing the Potomac River using various present and proposed bridges. We hope to have this report at our December meeting, after which it is hoped we will have a still better idea of bridge needs than we now have.

Unfortunately, our Commission does not have sufficient funds available, apparently, for obtaining an estimate of cost for a tunnel to Constitution Avenue. I know that some figures have been used but it is not certain that these estimates have been based upon a careful study. Have you a suggestion as to where funds might be obtained for securing such an estimate?

Sincerely yours,

(Sgnd.) Harland Bartholomew

Chairman

C O P Y

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 12, 1954

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Your letter of November 10th has just come to hand. I will be pleased to submit to the National Capital Planning Commission the views of the Fine Arts Commission as expressed in the letter of November 10th addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, also your suggestion that a further joint meeting of our two respective commissions might be held in the near future.

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Unfortunately, our Commission does not have sufficient funds available, apparently, for obtaining an estimate of cost for a tunnel to Constitution Avenue. I know that some figures have been used but it is not certain that these estimates have been based upon a careful study. Have you a suggestion as to where funds might be obtained for securing such an estimate?

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Harland Bartholomew

Chairman

EXHIBIT B-1

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 November 1954

Dear Mr. Bartholomew:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on November 10th, the members gave further consideration to the proposed bridge which has been authorized by the Congress to be erected over the Potomac River immediately south of Theodore Roosevelt Island. The Commission felt that further study should be given to this matter, and have made certain recommendations which are incorporated in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, of which I enclose a copy.

I hope there may be an opportunity to confer again with you and the members of your Commission, and with kind regards,
I am

Sincerely yours,

(Sgnd.) David E. Finley
Chairman

Hon. Harland Bartholomew, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B-2

THE COMMISSION ON FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 November 1954

Dear Mr. Bartholomew:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on November 10th, the members gave further consideration to the proposed bridge which has been authorized by the Congress to be erected over the Potomac River immediately south of Theodore Roosevelt Island. The Commission felt that further study should be given to this matter, and have made certain recommendations which are incorporated in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, of which I enclose a copy.

I hope there may be an opportunity to confer again with you and the members of your Commission, and with kind regards,
I am

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) David H. Kinley
Chairman

Hon. Harold Bartholomew, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

BEASLEY & BEASLEY
Washington 5, D. C.

November 22, 1954

Mr. Ole Singstad
Professional Engineer
24 State Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Singstad:

The District of Columbia Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers has a committee known as the "Civic Affairs Committee" of which the writer is Chairman. It is the duty of this committee to delve into matters of a civic nature and if it feels that the full facts involved are not before civic or national authorities, then to make an effort to see that such authorities are advised of pertinent facts. Of course, this applies only to the consideration of facts involving engineering data or problems.

The District of Columbia is in the process of a "face-lifting" of its downtown area. The traffic problem is about to get them down. Definite steps are underway to raze certain unsightly areas and erect thereon good properties that will be an asset rather than a liability to the business area and at the same time help to beautify the city. This gives an opportunity to create better access to the downtown area of the city.

Our local committee has been watching this development of ideas grow and so far on only one item has felt that possibly, from an engineering point of view, consideration may not have been given to this item. That is: whether or not the two new crossings of the Potomac River should be bridges or tunnels.

One projected crossing is known as the Jones Point Crossing. Its purpose is to provide a by-pass for U.S. #1 from where U.S. #1 comes into the Southern boundary of Alexandria, across the Potomac to the Maryland shore and thence by connecting new roads into U.S. #1 or #301. The concept is excellent as the crossing will not only provide a by-pass for trucks but will carry a large amount of traffic to the Maryland area which is fast building up with residences. Many of these Marylanders work at the Pentagon, Bureau of Yards and Docks and Navy Accounting Bureau just across the river in Virginia and many Virginians work at the Naval Gun Factory, Indian Head and Andrews Field.

Virginia is connected to the District of Columbia by five bridges at the present time. The two downstream bridges are known as the Fourteenth Street Bridge (really two bridges) which are one way crossings. One of these bridges

BEASLEY & BEASLEY
Washington 5, D. C.

Mr. Singstad

November 22, 1954

is new in the last six to eight years and already, with the old bridge (one way to Virginia) is completely incapable of carrying the traffic. The next two bridges up stream carry traffic both ways and are, during the rush hour traffic, also a "nightmare".

It is figured that the projected by-pass crossing below Alexandria will ease up on the traffic across the Fourteenth Street Bridges so the other projected crossing is up stream from Memorial Bridge which crosses the Potomac on a line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. It is felt that this new crossing will relieve the two way traffic on Memorial and Key Bridges which are the two upstream bridges from the Fourteenth Street Bridges. Certainly some relief must be given because of the enormous development in near-by Virginia.

The Federal Government owns both sides of the river between these bridges and there is no question of land values of approaches, etc. entering into the picture. Naturally, approaches might be easier at one point than another but there is no insurmountable difficulty in approaches to a bridge or a tunnel.

Our local N.S.P.E. committee has for some time felt that the landscape was sufficiently "cluttered up" with bridges and another bridge would definitely detract from the appearance of the area.

Some 12 to 18 months ago when the subject of this bridge first arose, the writer suggested a tunnel at some agreeable point between these bridges. The newspapers gave the idea a good play until the Congressman from the affected Virginia area called in a Mr. Ralph Smillie of New York, I believe a former associate of yours. The public was never advised of Mr. Smillie's opinion as rendered but announcement was made that a tunnel would cost from 3 to 5 times as much as a bridge. In our local N.S.P.E. group we had no national authority on tunnels and my experience thereon was years ago in a minor capacity so we simply "shut up" and bided our time.

Last week we were much encouraged to hear that the National Commission of Fine Arts had issued a statement that it thought another bridge between the two existing bridges was not proper and would, in their opinion, detract from the beauty of the Lincoln Memorial. This statement encouraged us a great deal for in Washington that Commission carries a great deal of weight, especially since this is public property under National Capitol Parks and both National Capital Parks and the Fine Arts Commission are a part of the Department of Interior.

When I read this announcement, I called up Paul Robbins at the Headquarters of N.S.P.E. here and asked him if there was a member of the Society who was an outstanding authority on tunnels. He gave me your name and address and when I told him why I wanted it, authorized me to state to you that the National Society highly approved of the interest in the matter by the local chapter and it was their hope that you would see fit to favor us in so far as was consistent with your interests.

BEASLEY & BEASLEY
Washington 5, D. C.

Mr. Singstad

November 22, 1954

Armed with information, I contacted the Secretary of the National Commission of Fine Arts and advised him of our interest in seeing the possibility of a tunnel explored by the most capable authority available. He (Linton R. Wilson, Secretary of Fine Arts Commission) invited me to come to his office and discuss the matter. That I did on Friday afternoon and Mr. Wilson escorted me to the office of Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Associate Supt. of National Capital Parks. I had hoped to get from this interview, certain data relative to the geology of the area, depth and width of river and any data available on borings from any of the bridge constructions now in place.

To my surprise and delight I found that Mr. Thompson agreed with Paul Robbins and myself that you were the outstanding consultant on tunnels and that he had already contacted you on the phone, was assembling the available data and hoped to arrange a trip to New York the 24th to discuss this problem with you. He most graciously invited me to accompany him but I regret that other appointments preclude that pleasure.

I regret the length of this letter but I did want to convey to you the intense interest of our committee, our local N.S.P.E. chapter as well as the headquarters of the National Society, in seeing this matter fully explored by you.

If you undertake the project, I would like to have you and any of your staff accompanying you, Mr. Thompson and Paul Robbins join me for lunch and there I will go further into matters that I am ashamed to write because this letter is much too long already.

Sincerely,
Sgd. Oscar H. Beasley, P. E.

CC:

Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service

Harry T. Thompson, Associate Superintendent
National Capital Parks

David E. Finley, Chairman
National Commission of Fine Arts

Linton R. Wilson, Secretary
National Commission of Fine Arts

Paul H. Robbins, Secretary
National Society of Professional Engineers

Walter H. McCartha, President District Chapter
National Society of Professional Engineers

WASHINGTON, D. C.
RECEIVED & INDEXED

November 12, 1934

Mr. Singstad

After with information, I contacted the Secretary of the National Society of Fine Arts and advised him of our interest in awarding the prize of a fund established by the late Carl H. Robbins. The prize was to be given to the author of the best work in the field of the history of the fine arts. I had hoped to get from this interview, contact with the Secretary of the National Society of Fine Arts, and which of the prize fund was to be given to the author of the best work in the field of the history of the fine arts.

To my surprise and delight I found that Mr. Thompson, who was the Secretary of the National Society of Fine Arts, was also the Secretary of the National Society of Fine Arts. I had hoped to get from this interview, contact with the Secretary of the National Society of Fine Arts, and which of the prize fund was to be given to the author of the best work in the field of the history of the fine arts.

I regret the length of this letter but I did want to convey to you the substance of our committee, and I hope as well as the results of the National Society, in awarding the prize fund to the author of the best work in the field of the history of the fine arts.

All you undertake the project, I would like to have you and your staff accompanying you, Mr. Thompson, and Carl Robbins, to the National Society of Fine Arts. I will go further into matters than I am ashamed to write because this letter is much too long already.

Sincerely,
Mr. Thompson, Secretary

CC

Comd. L. Smith, Director
National Fine Arts Service

Harry I. Thompson, Associate Administrator
National Capital Parks

David L. Smith, Chairman
National Society of Fine Arts

Linton R. Wilson, Secretary
National Society of Fine Arts

Paul M. Robbins, Secretary
National Society of Professional Engineers

Walter H. Robbins, President
National Society of Professional Engineers

C O P Y

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

November 24, 1954

Honorable David E. Finley
Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

I have revised my bill somewhat and am sending you several copies of the new draft for the consideration of the Members of the Commission and yourself.

In a message to the Columbia University Conference on The Role of the University in the Creative Arts I had occasion to refer to something you once said. A copy of that message is enclosed.

You may have seen the item on the New Jersey recount which is enclosed. Because of the muddled situation there I hope you will be able to send me shortly the comments of the Commission on the first bill I sent you which is based on the National Science Act of 1950. I would like to be able to make whatever changes you suggest before the end of this Congress for obvious reasons.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Howell, M. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

November 24, 1954

Honorable David E. Finley
Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

I have revised my bill somewhat and am sending you several copies of the new draft for the consideration of the members of the Commission and yourself.

In a message to the Columbia University Conference on the Role of the University in the Creative Arts I had occasion to refer to something you once said. A copy of that message is enclosed.

You may have seen the item on the New Jersey account which is enclosed. Because of the mangled citation there I hope you will be able to send me shortly the comments of the Commission on the first bill I sent you which is based on the National Science Act of 1950. I would like to be able to make whatever changes you suggest before the end of this Congress for obvious reasons.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Howell, Jr.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 2, 1954

Dear Mr. Howell:

The Commission has asked me to thank you for your letter of November 24th, enclosing a revised draft of your bill, "Creating a Federal Commission to formulate plans for the construction in the District of Columbia of a National Memorial Auditorium (including a fine arts and music center) to honor those who have died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States."

They have expressed themselves as unanimously in favor of the new draft, which they feel is preferable to the previous one, to which they also gave their approval. The Commission would prefer to see an auditorium erected, (including a fine arts and music center), without combining it with a stadium which might be more conveniently erected and operated on a different site from that desired for the auditorium.

They feel that an auditorium and music center are very much needed in Washington and would be happy to see such a building erected at the earliest possible moment. They asked me to express their appreciation of your efforts to secure such a building, and will be happy to be of any assistance in connection with plans and designs for such a building.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) David E. Finley
Chairman

Hon. Charles R. Howell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C-1

THE OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF THE
BUREAU OF THE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 2, 1934

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The Commission has taken as its basis the fact that you are a member of the
National Memorial Association (including a fine and a medal) and
to honor those who have died while serving in the United States.

They have expressed their desire to be prominently in the
front, which they feel is their right to the previous one, and which they
also gave their approval. The Commission would prefer to see in
their stead, (including a fine and a medal) and which they feel is
their right to be prominently in the front.

They feel that in addition to the medal and a fine, they should
also have a medal and a fine, and they feel that they should have
a medal and a fine, and they feel that they should have a medal and a fine.

For The Commission of the

Director

(1934) 1001
1001

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director of the
Bureau of the
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Washington 25, D. C.

November 26, 1954

Honorable David E. Finley, Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

The Smithsonian Institution has submitted to the Bureau of the Budget a request to include in the Institution's 1956 budget an item for the construction of all agencies involved we have asked the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, to prepare sketch plans of east and west extensions of the Natural History Building. The plans have been prepared and I respectfully ask the Commission of Fine Arts to consider and approve the extensions insofar as these preliminary plans permit.

Dr. J. L. Keddy, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, will be pleased to discuss with the Commission the serious need that exists for extensions to the Natural History Building. Mr. L. L. Hunter, Acting Supervising Architect, Public Buildings Service, has likewise agreed to accompany Dr. Keddy, to deliver a set of plans to the Commission, and to furnish such information as may be necessary. Both are prepared to appear at the Commission's request and convenience.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Leonard Carmichael
Secretary

EXHIBIT D

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Washington 25, D. C.

November 26, 1954

Honorable David B. Finley, Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

The Smithsonian Institution has submitted to the Bureau of the Budget a request to include in the Institution's 1955 budget an item for the construction of all agencies involved. We have asked the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, to prepare a sketch plan of east and west extensions of the National History Building. The plans have been prepared and I respectfully ask the Commission of Fine Arts to consider and approve the extensions insofar as these preliminary plans permit.

Dr. J. L. Hodge, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, will be pleased to discuss with the Commission the construction of the extensions to the National History Building. Mr. L. L. Hunter, Acting Supervising Architect, Public Buildings Service, has likewise agreed to accompany Dr. Hodge to deliver a set of plans to the Commission, and to furnish such information as may be necessary. Both are prepared to appear at the Commission's request and convenience.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Leonard C. Smith
Secretary

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 December 1954

Dear Mr. Carmichael:

Preliminary plans for the proposed extensions to the Natural History Building were presented to the Commission of Fine Arts at its regular monthly meeting on 2 December 1954, by Dr. J. L. Keddy of the Smithsonian Institution and Mr. L. L. Hunter of Public Buildings Service.

The Museum's need for additional work space was recognized and the plans were approved in principle. The Commission will be pleased to consider further developments as the project progresses.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Dr. Leonard Carmichael
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT D-1

0001

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
1000 MUSEUM BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 December 1934

Dear Mr. Carmichael:

Preliminary plans for the proposed extension of the
Museum History Building were presented to the Commission at
their first at its regular monthly meeting on 2 December 1934,
by Dr. J. L. Needy of the Smithsonian Institution and
Mr. L. L. Hunter of Public Buildings Service.

The Museum's need for additional work space was re-
affirmed and the plans were approved in principle. The Com-
mission will be pleased to consider further developments as the
project progresses.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David H. Finley
Chairman

Dr. Leonard Carmichael
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT D-1

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 December 1954

Dear Mr. Howell:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at the meeting held on December 2, 1954, gave further consideration to your letter of October 8, 1954, in which you enclosed a draft of proposed legislation, "To increase the membership and expand the functions and duties of the Commission of Fine Arts, and for other purposes." A copy of your letter and the proposed draft of legislation had been sent previously to the members in order that they might have the opportunity to consider the matter before coming to the meeting of the Commission.

After careful study of the proposed legislation, it is their opinion that such legislation, if enacted, would change the functions of the Commission of Fine Arts from those of an advisory nature, as provided in existing legislation, to those of an initiating and administrative agency charged with functions that would be entirely different from those now performed by the Commission. The Commission feel that the service which has been rendered over a period of more than forty years has proved the usefulness of the Commission as at present constituted, and that it would be a mistake if legislation were enacted which would change or impair the functioning of the Commission in this respect.

The Commission, as you know, is a small body, composed of seven members appointed by the President on a nationwide basis. The members, who serve without pay, meet in Washington for one or two days each month for the purpose of advising the President, the Congress, and heads of Government departments on matters of art with which the Federal Government is specifically concerned. If to these duties were added those outlined in your bill of initiating and supporting professional and amateur activities in all fields of the fine arts throughout the country, it would be difficult for members serving in an honorary capacity to discharge the new duties that would be imposed under the proposed legislation without spending a great deal more of their time in Washington.

There is one further consideration. The members of the Commission are fearful that, if the proposed bill should be enacted into law, it would concentrate in a few hands too much authority as regards art activities in this country which, in the field of creative art, have mostly developed as a result of private initiative. The Commission hopes, therefore, that the proposed legislation will not be enacted into law in the form outlined in your letter.

EXHIBIT E

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 December 1954

Dear Mr. Howell:

The Commission of the first, at the meeting held on December 1, 1954, gave further consideration to your letter of October 2, 1954, in which you enclosed a draft of proposed legislation. The Commission members and among the functions and duties of the Commission as time goes, and for other purposes. A copy of your letter and the proposed draft of legislation has been sent previously to the members in order that they might have the opportunity to consider the matter before coming to the meeting of the Commission.

After careful study of the proposed legislation, it is the opinion of the Commission that such legislation, if enacted, would change the functions of the Commission of the first from those of an advisory nature, as provided in existing legislation, to those of an initiating and legislative nature. The Commission feels that the new functions which would be assigned to the Commission would be a serious burden upon the Commission, and that it would be a waste of the Commission's resources to undertake such a task. The Commission in this respect.

The Commission, as you know, is a small body, composed of seven members appointed by the President on a nonpartisan basis. The members serve without pay, meet in Washington for one or two days each month for the purpose of advising the President, the Congress, and heads of government departments on matters of national importance. It is specifically concerned with the initiation of legislation and the execution of laws. It would be difficult for members serving in an advisory capacity to discharge the new duties that would be imposed upon them. The Commission without spending a great deal more of their time in Washington.

There is one further consideration. The members of the Commission are fearful that, if the proposed bill should be enacted into law, it would concentrate in a few hands too much authority as to the activities in this country which, in the field of executive and legislative development, is a result of the initiative. The Commission feels, therefore, that the proposed legislation will not be enacted into law in the form outlined in your letter.

Mr. Howell

Page 2

The members of the Commission have asked me to thank you for giving them an opportunity to study the proposed legislation and they also asked me to express to you their appreciation of your efforts to improve the activities of the Federal Government in the field of the arts.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Hon. Charles R. Howell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Howell
Page 2

The members of the Commission have asked me to thank you for giving them an opportunity to study the proposed legislation and they also asked me to express to you their appreciation of your efforts to improve the activities of the Federal Government in the field of the arts.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David H. Phinley
Chairman

Hon. Charles E. Howell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

1. Gilt bronze Buddhist image in 3 parts: figure, base and mandorla; Chinese, Six Dynasties;
- 1 Gold ornament, sleeping wild goose on reeds, 2 pieces; Japanese, by Haruaki;
- 1 Painting, Chinese, 17th century, attributed to Ch'ên Hsien;
- 1 Porcelain, white vase; Chinese;

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

November 22, 1954 For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

December 2, 1954 David E. Finley, Chairman
For the Commission of Fine Arts.

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
November 22, 1954
November 22, 1954
DEC 2 1954

Miss Katharine N. Rhoades
Katharine N. Rhoades

NOTED

The Bureau of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of
the Arts, and the National Academy of Arts, have been
informed by the National Academy of Arts of the
fact that the National Academy of Arts has been
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RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEC 2 1954

NOTED

C O P Y

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

Office of the Secretary
2215 Constitution Ave. N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.

December 2, 1954

Mr. Linton R. Wilson, Secretary
The Fine Arts Commission
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As you know, the Zoning Commission is considering an application to change from Residential 90' "C" Area to First Commercial 90' "C" Area Lot 11, Square 62, located on the southwest corner of 22nd and C Streets, N. W.

When we located the building of the American Institute of Pharmacy on our present site, it was with the expectation that we would be permitted to expand our facilities to the north of our present property, and we believe that the Fine Arts Commission was in favor of such expansion.

We have now reached the point where expansion of our physical facilities is necessary, and since the quasi governmental activity in which we are engaged, namely, that of preparing standards for drugs which have official status under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, is increasing, we shall soon require the additional property.

Since there was a complete understanding with the Fine Arts Commission at the time of the construction of our present building that whatever additional construction would be needed would be kept in harmony with the fundamental planning of your Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission, we hope that you will support our contention that the property to the north of us should not be re-classified for commercial use.

In view of the fact that the hearing will be held on December 8, we would greatly appreciate your consideration prior to that date.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Fischelis, Secretary

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

Office of the Secretary
2215 Constitution Ave. N. W.
Washington, D. C.
December 2, 1934

Mr. Linton R. Wilson, Secretary
The Fine Arts Commission
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As you know, the Zoning Commission is considering an application to change from Residential 901 "C" Area to First Commercial 901 "C" Area Lot 11, Square 62, located on the southwest corner of 22nd and C Streets, N. W.

When we located the building of the American Institute of Pharmacy on our present site, it was with the expectation that we would be permitted to expand our facilities to the north of our present property, and we believe that the Fine Arts Commission was in favor of such expansion.

We have now reached the point where expansion of our physical facilities is necessary, and since the quasi governmental activity in which we are engaged, namely, that of preparing standards for drugs which have official status under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, is increasing, we shall soon require the additional property.

Since there was a complete understanding with the Fine Arts Commission at the time of the construction of our present building that whatever additional construction would be needed would be kept in harmony with the fundamental planning of your Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission, we hope that you will support our contention that the property to the north of us should not be re-classified for commercial use.

In view of the fact that the hearing will be held on December 6, we would greatly appreciate your consideration prior to that date.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Fischelis, Secretary

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